(d) if so, what measures Government propose to take in this regard to save the country from ecological disaster?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) The Government are aware of the fact that prompt corrective measures are needed to maintain ecological balance in the country.

(b) According to official records, between 1951 to 1980, 4.328 million hectares of forest area have been lost for various purposes due to official diversion. The forest area actually lost is more. Since 1980, the official diversion of forest area to non-forest uses is approximately 5,500 hectares per annum. The main reason for the loss of forest area is biotic pressure.

(c) It is a fact that large quantity of fertile soil is washed away every year due to floods. There is no scientific evidence to conclude that the country, especially the Himalayas, are threatened to become deserts by the beginning of the 21st Century.

(d) The following steps have been taken to prevent an ecological disaster:—

(1) The emphasis in all forestry programmes today is laid on conservation and increased plantation efforts.

(2) The Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 has been enacted with a view to minimise diversion of forest land for non-forest use.

(3) The State Governments have been advised to ban all fellings above 1000 meters in the in the hills and to restrict clear-felling of the natural forests.

(4) The National Wastelands Development Board has been set up to accelrate afforestation activities on wastelands and degraded Forest Lands.

(5) Peoples participation has been increased through Farm Forestry and decentralised nurseries.

Re-naming of Andaman and Nicobar Islands as Subhash and Swaraj Dwip

1662. SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any representations for renaming Andaman and Nicobar Islands as Subhash Dwip and Swaraj Dwip' and Port Blair as 'Port Subhash' or 'Subhash Bandor' as a mark of respect to Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose; and

(b) if so, what is the reaction of the Government thereto and whether any decision is likely to be taken in this regard before the next birthday of Netaji i.e. 23rd January, 1987?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Provision of adequate equipment in Doordarshan studios

1663. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in most of the Doordarshan Kendars particularly in Bombay, the studios are ill equipped and the staff inadequate; and

(b) if so, what steps Government are taking to provide adequate equipments, such as cameras, for out-door work and production staff?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) No, Sir.